

Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee

Tuesday, December 1, 2015

Archie R. Cole Middle School Library

100 Cedar Avenue

East Greenwich, RI 02818

5:37 p.m. Executive Session, Mrs. Winters made a motion to go into executive session for discussion and/or action regarding those items of business exempt from open meetings under Rhode Island General Laws §42-46-4 and §42-46-5, (a) (2) Teacher Negotiations. Dr. Sun seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

Those in attendance were Ms. Carolyn Mark, Chair; Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters; Mr. David Osborne; Mr. Michael Fain, and Dr. Yan Sun. Dr. Deidre Gifford, Vice-Chair was absent. Dr. Victor Mercurio, Superintendent and Mr. Bradley Wilson, Director of Student Services were also in attendance.

7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting

I. Call to Order

Ms. Mark called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. and announced a vote was taken in executive session on November 17, 2015. The vote was 5-0 in favor of not pursuing additional legal action regarding a class size dispute. A public statement regarding the

legal action was released on November 19, 2015. The statement is

available to any interested party. The School Committee looks forward to resolving the dispute during the upcoming negotiation. The discussion on The Trust OPEB Funding Program was tabled until the next meeting.

II. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

III. Recognitions

a. Boys' Cross Country, Class C Champions, EGHS

The team was congratulated on their fifth time being named Class C Champion.

IV. Public Comments

Mr. Peter Dion noted the long jump pit has been finished.

V. Approval of Minutes

a. Regular and Executive for November 17, 2015

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve the regular and executive minutes.

VI . Superintendent's Report

Administration, faculty, staff, and volunteers were thanked for their efforts last week at the EGHS for Choose 2 Matter. The football team is in the state championship and will play Classical in the superbowl. The public forum to discuss PARCC results will take place on Thursday, December 3rd at 7:00 p.m. in the Cole library. A survey will be sent out to gather input on the scheduling of the parent conference/professional development on the day before Thanksgiving.

VII. School Committee Concerns

There were no concerns.

VIII. Action Items

a. Appointments

1. EGHS AC Boys' Indoor Track- Nick Ross

2. EGHS AC Girls' Basketball-Len Palizza

On a motion by Mrs. Winters, which was seconded by Mr. Fain, the Committee voted 5-0 to approve appointments #1 and #2. Dr. Mercurio noted that Nick Ross was a former EGHS student and one of the most decorated runners from EGHS.

b. Proposal for School Start Time Survey for Students-Dr. Kate Sharkey

Dr. Kate Sharkey presented a draft of the school start time survey and answered questions from the Committee. This study would be sent to students in grades 6-12 prior to the February vacation. A random number will be created for each student to protect his or her identity. Dr. Sharkey asked the Committee to review the questions and provide input prior to the next School Committee meeting. A question pertaining to the late start on Wednesday may be added. Mr. Osborne made a motion to approve the concept of undertaking a student survey for research. One caveat is the Committee reserves the right to weigh in if results impact student confidentiality. The Committee will provide feedback for additional questions/revisions, which will be incorporated into the final copy of the survey, which will be presented on December 15th. Mrs. Winters seconded the motion, which passed 5-0. The Committee expressed concerns regarding using the district's name in the final report. The

Committee reserves the right to opt out using the district's name.

IX. Advisory/Subcommittee Update

a. Health and Wellness Committee

At yesterday's meeting, Mr. Downey presented the curriculum for PE/Health. The curriculum has been in the process of a rewrite for the past few years. The Health/Wellness Committee goals have been posted on the district website. A subgroup is working on an indoor recess toolkit to improve indoor recess for students. The plan is to have a completed kit in January. This will need to be discussed at a January administrative council meeting. An FAQ regarding highlights of the Health/Wellness Policy may be crafted as a reminder of the policy.

b. Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

Mrs. Patty Harwood gave an overview of the November 16th meeting.

Mr. Wilson shared information regarding a program that helps students' transition from school to work. A parent survey was sent to SEAC members to identify goals. A SEAC page has been set up to share resources among community members. SEAC asked if the special education budget could be discussed prior to the elementary/secondary budgets on February 9, 2016. SEAC discussed the newly enacted ABLE act, which allows families to put funds into a state sanctioned account each year with a \$100,000 cap. The money is not taxed and can be put towards a child's future when they age out of the school system.

X. Discussion

a. The Trust OPEB Funding Program- Colleen Bodziony

This item was tabled.

b. PARCC results

Dr. Mercurio presented the PARCC results noting student scores are expected by the end of the week. PARCC changes for 2016, PARCC participation, and performance levels were discussed. This presentation will be posted on the Superintendent's field memo and the district website tomorrow. Dr. Mercurio said the results were "all over the place" and said it is hard to compare/contrast with other districts due to various factors such as the participation rate. The Committee discussed test fatigue and asked if practice test(s) could be done during the year to develop stamina. The Committee would like to compare the results of paper testing vs. computer testing. Ms. Mark asked Dr. Mercurio to provide comparisons for the forum on Thursday night.

c. All Day Kindergarten Update

Staffing is still being examined. Mr. Wilmarth is working with the town and vendors to address the work that needs to be completed inside the buildings. A report will be presented at the December 15th meeting.

d. School Start Time Update

There were no items to report.

XI. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Fain, which was seconded by Mr. Osborne, the Committee voted 5-0 to adjourn at 8:45 p.m.

CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO

SECRETARY